

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 157285
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DRAFTED BY:S/S:RPERITO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 157285

NODIS

FOR Z BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT GUATEMALA 4215 ACTION SECSTATE DATED JUL 06:

QTE: S E C R E T GUATEMALA 4215

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS -1

TAGS: GT, GH UK PBOR

SUBJ:GUATEMALA-BELIZE DISPUTE

REF: STATE 156404; GUATEMALA 4205

1. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ANTICIPATE WHAT GUATEMALAN REACTION WILL BE TO BRITISH REINFORCEMENT OF SIX HARRIER JETS ARRIVING IN BELIZE IN JULY 7, FINAL DAY OF GUATEMALAN-BRITISH TALKS IN WASHINGTON. ON ONE HAND, ARRIVAL OF SIX HARRIERS AND REPORTED PRESENCE BRITISH FRIGATE WILL HAVE SOBERING EFFECT ONGOG AND INHIBIT ANY MILITARY ACTIONS THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN PLANNING AFTER CONCLUSION OF WASHINGTON TALKS. OUR ASSESSMENT HAD BEEN THAT GOG WOULD NOT INITIATE MILITARY ACTION SIMPLY BECAUSE

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OF BREAKDOWN OF WASHINGTON TALKS, AND THAT ONLY MORE DRAMATIC ACTION SUCH AS SOME STEP TOWARD UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WOULD PRECIPITATE IT. BRITISH EVIDENTLY DO NOT SHARE OUR ASSESSMENT AHD HAVE SEEN FIT TO REINFORCE.

2. WE BELIEVE BRITISH REINFORCEMENTS WILL PUT LAUGERUD IN EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT POSITION. THREE TIMES WITHIN PAST TWELVE

DAYS WE HAVE GONE IN TO URGE RESTRAINT ON GOG, COUPLED WITH
OUR ASSURANCE TO THEM THAT BRITISH WERE SIMILARLY TAKING
EVERY MEASURE TO AVOID ANY ACTION WHICH COULD EXACERBATE THE
SITUATION. THE GOG HAS, AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, HEEDED OUR
DEMARCHES AND HAS REFRAINED FROM ANY PROVOCATIVE ACTION.

3. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, REPORTED PRESENCE OF BRITISH
FRIGATE OFF BELIZEAN COAST HAS CREATED STRONG PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
REACTION FROM GOG. GOG COMMUNIQUE ON FRIGATE (GUATEMALA
4204) IS SHRILL IN TONE AND ACTING FONMIN OBIOLS' SECOND
APPROACH TO ME ON THE SUBJECT TODAY AT NOON (GUATEMALA 4205)
HAS MADE CLEAR THAT GOG WILL NOT FEEL ITSELF BOUND BY EARLIER
COMMITMENTS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IF BRITISH FRIGATE REMAINS
IN PLACE. COMING ON TOP OF THIS, ARRIVAL OF HARRIERS WILL
OBVIOUSLY RUB SALT IN THE WOUNDS AND WILL BE HUMILIATING TO
GOG, PARTICULARLY TO PRESIDENT WHO WILL BE IN AN EXPOSED
POSITION VIS-AVIS THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY. AN ADDITIONAL
CONSEQUENCE, WE BELIEVE, WILL BE THAT WHATEVER PROGRESS
MIGHT HAVE BEMAFVVZCZ

Message Attributes

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